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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

Dependable

How many of us have been let down? It could be a trusted friend that let you down. You may have lost confidence in church people because in some way they let you down. Oftentimes we idolize our parents only to find out that they are all too human. A spouse may let us down by committing adultery. It's not always just people who let us down; sometimes its whole institutions. We've mentioned the church, but what about our families? What about our schools? Have they let us down? The medical profession has been revered as godlike. Yet, it is all too common for people to be disappointed by hospitals, doctors, medical procedures, and the like. Colleges and universities get "caught" in unfairness and shady deals. Salespeople seem (sometimes) to have written the book on lies and misdirection. All these serve to leave us rootless, drifting, and wondering who we ever trust.

In the catacombs, where Christians often sought refuge from persecution one of the most familiar symbols is the anchor. We have a superior hope. Our anchor is so much more secure than those of mankind. In Hebrews 6:13-20, the writer assures us of God's promises. He reassures us that we can bank on God's word and God's control. In verse 19 he wrote that we have "*a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.*" You see our hope is not just whistling in the dark to keep up our courage. Our hope is anchored securely in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

God is unchanging in His character. What He was in the Old Testament and New Testament times He is in 2022. He is a God of love. He is also a God of judgment. He rules the universe though it is often hard to see or realize. He is watching but He is more than watching; He is engaged. His character is truth. Truth is so hard to figure out sometimes. Everyone believes that they know and live by the truth. I would remind you, however, that Satan is a phenomenal liar. That is his name. He deceives us so well, that we truly, truly believe that we have the truth. A quick look at the evening news tells you that much that passes for truth is, in reality, misinformation. God has always been on our side. He truly wants the very best for us. We have, though, been so lied to that we don't see His way and the right way. We see God's way as backward and old fashioned. Here's an example. His way is to forgive. So many have opted out of forgiveness, believing that if they forgive, someone will just take advantage of them. The irony is that we know we need to *be* forgiven. We desperately want others to forgive us but can't bring ourselves to pass on that same forgiveness. From the beginning of time, God's way is forgiveness. If we want to walk after Him, we must somehow, someday, learn to forgive.

His character is unchanging. You can depend on it. You can anchor your life in it. It is (as is taught in Hebrews 6) an anchor for our souls. With all the changing values and deceptive "truths," we need someone and something we can depend on. We need an anchor. The further you walk from God/Jesus the more you are adrift.

We Need an Anchor
Jerry Rea